



Hard Disk Resurrection

Has a back up hard disk refused to come to life after a while in a closet while it was happily spinning the last time you used it? An older machine fails to boot as its disk remains lethargic after a few days you last used it? Might be an EASY FIX!

Written By: MiKa



INTRODUCTION

Piece-of-cake repair that might resurrect an unresponsive Hard Disk.

Sometimes high-tech falls victim to the lowest of troubles: Plain air moisture...



TOOLS:

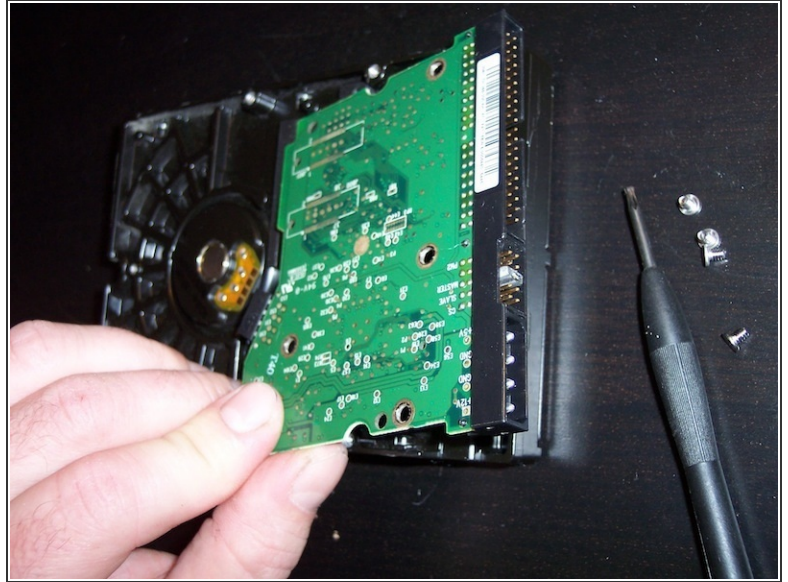
- [T8 Torx Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [Flathead 3/32" or 2.5 mm Screwdriver](#) (1)
-

Step 1 — Hard Disk Resurrection



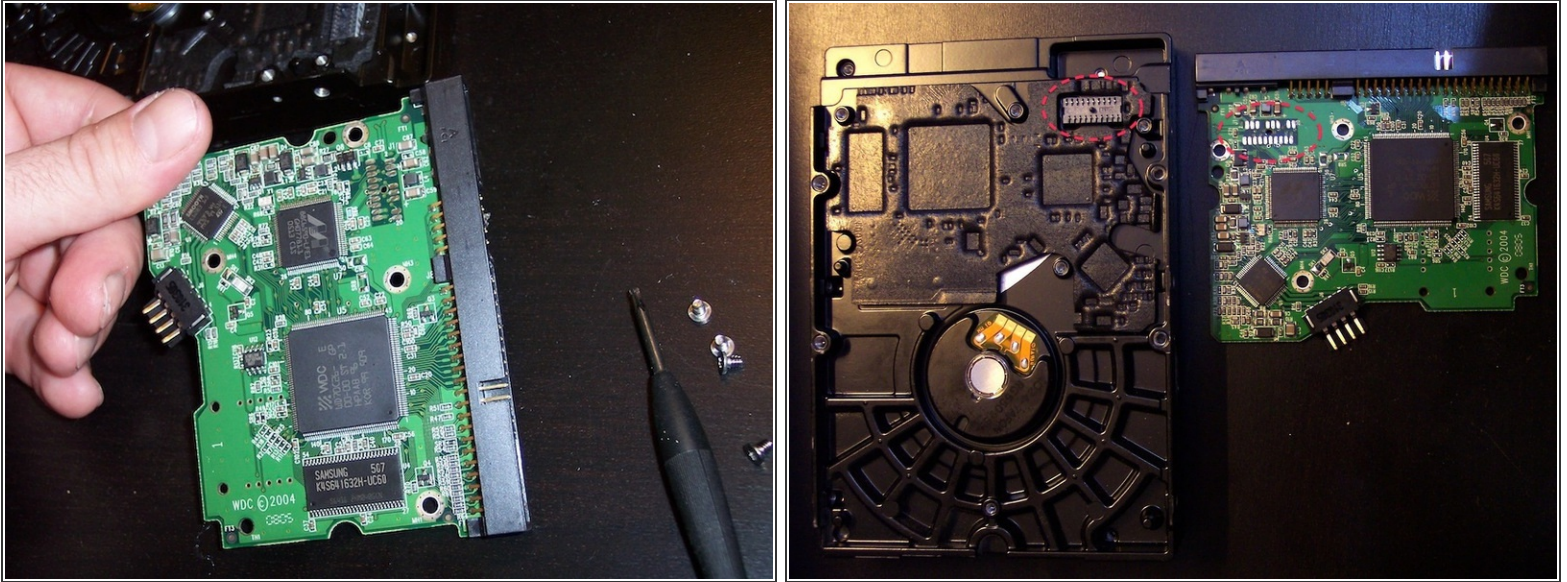
- Panic! The old back-up Hard Disk refuses to mount! The operating system does not "see" it at all and it does not make the happy spin-up noise! What could have happened? You just used it for a succesful back-up last month and stored it again in its quiet sleeping drawer! Why doesn't it wake up?
- Before you start going through HD cradles in frenzy or just give up thinking "*doh! there goes my rare music pieces collection*" (at least like I did) do have a closer look on the logic board. Any bare metal point not shining in the light as it should? A-ha! The red circles here denote what I saw when I exclaimed this.

Step 2



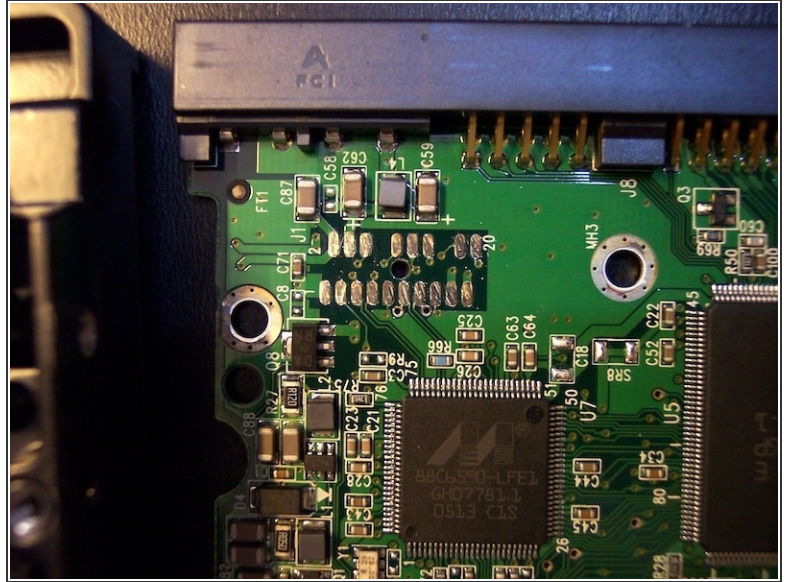
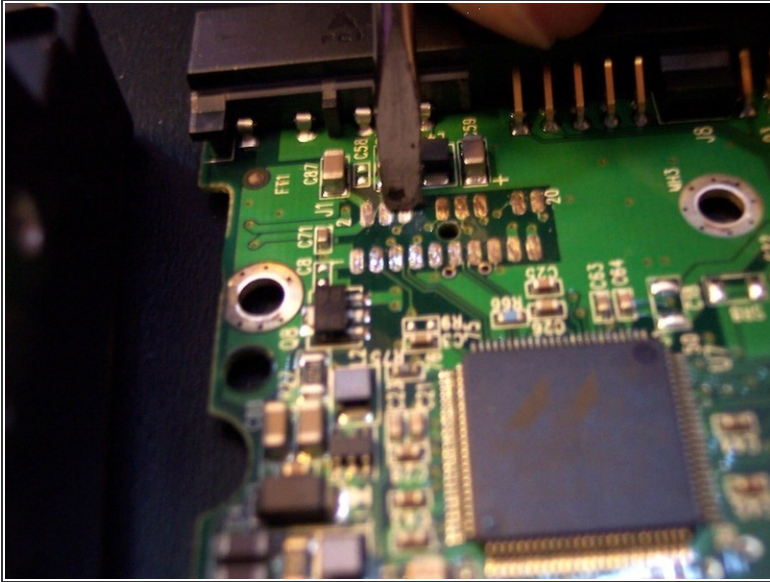
- So, find an earthing spot to discharge yourself from possibly damaging static charge and take out your Torx screwdriver!
- The logic board is usually interfaced to the hard disk mechanism through contacts - when you unscrew it from the metal body there is usually no cable or plug you need to remove.

Step 3



- When you take the logic board off the hard disk body, inspect the flip side for any signs of serious trouble, blown chips etc.
- (Back in the day of hard disks of 1-2-6 GBs capacity if the motor control chips were blown, we would swap logic boards from same model functioning disks and all was good again! This technique stopped working as disks grew bigger - logic boards must have gotten married to each disk's personal geometry and no longer generic-swappable.)
- If all chips look good, **look carefully at the contact points denoted by the red circles in the photograph.** In this case the metal PCB pads were looking dull because of mild superficial corrosion (*but I took the picture after the repair - doh!*)

Step 4



- So take out a flat head screwdriver or some more fancy scraping tool and **scrape the dullness out of the contact pads** - just do it carefully not to damage the PCB elsewhere. (*...and please do not laugh at my "fine" scraping quality :-)*)
- When done with scraping, screw back the PCB to the hard disk body. Chances are it will happily spin up again and the computer's operating system will be able to use it as usual. *"Yoo-hoo, music saved, hurray!"* me went at this point!
- I hope the luck goddess smiles to you and this ultra low tech repair saves the day for you too! Happy iFixing, mates! :-)

Easy, wasn't it?

This document was last generated on 2017-07-01 09:58:54 PM.